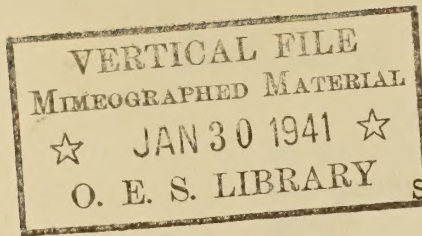


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United States Department of Agriculture
E X T E N S I O N S E R V I C E
Washington, D. C.

STATEMENT REGARDING SUPPLIES OF SEED FOR 1941

Legumes

Alfalfa.

States that can produce hardy strains of alfalfa seed should be encouraged to continue the expansion of acreage. Supplies of nonhardy alfalfa seed are ample, and no increase would seem feasible. As disease-resistant strains of hardy alfalfa come into production, they should replace nonresistant varieties as fast as possible.

The supply of alfalfa seed available for 1941 planting, including the 1940 production and the carry-over is about 80,500,000 pounds. This is slightly larger than the supply for 1940 and about 20 percent greater than the 10-year average.

Red clover.

The production of red clover seed is keeping up with the demand. The 1940 production, together with the carry-over, is a little less than 111,000,000 pounds.

Continued normal production of red clover seed should be encouraged notwithstanding prices lower than average.

As a means of stabilizing the red clover seed program, the production of both the Corn Belt blend and the southern disease-resistant blend of red clovers in the Northwestern States should be encouraged.

Alsike clover.

There is a good supply of alsike clover seed, and indications are that there will be a considerable carry-over after the 1941 demands are met.

An average acreage of alsike clover should be maintained for seed production, since this clover can be substituted for red clover in some areas.

It is important to have ample supply of clover seed to meet the needs of Agricultural Adjustment Administration and other action programs that are encouraging larger legume seedings to replace soil-depleting crops.

White clover.

White clover acreage for seed production should be increased in all States where seed can be produced. This is indicated by a low production in 1940 as well as by a smaller than normal carry-over.

Before the present war, more than three-fourths of the white clover seed used in this country was imported. This supply is almost entirely cut off.

Ladino clover.

There will probably be some increase in the demand for Ladino clover seed for 1941 seeding, which will call for increased production. Ladino clover seed production has about reached the place where the present demand can be supplied.

Sweetclover.

Seed production of sweetclover should continue at about the normal rate. In the Corn Belt there is a demand for pure white biennial sweetclover, and the production of this type of seed should be increased.

The 1940 production was about two-thirds of that in 1939, but, with a large carry-over of seed, the total amount available for 1941 is approximately 60,000,000 pounds, which is only 10,000,000 pounds less than last year.

Crimson clover.

There is need for increase in the production of crimson clover seed. This is due to the increased demand as a winter cover crop in the Southern States and to the fact that very little crimson clover is being imported.

Plans have been completed by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the Commodity Credit Corporation for the purchase and distribution of crimson clover seed under the grant of aid plan in 1941. This will insure a market for this seed in Tennessee and neighboring States and should stimulate the production of seed and stabilize supplies.

Austrian winter peas.

The expansion of the acreage seeded to Austrian winter peas under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program seems to have stimulated the production of this crop to where it meets the increasing demand for its use as a winter cover crop in the Southern States if production is maintained at about the present level.

Vetch.

There is need for a further increase in the production of hairy vetch to meet the increasing demand for seed as a cover crop in the Southern States. Due to the stimulation of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program in the production of vetch seed in the Northwestern States, the production in 1940 is about 19,500,000 pounds, compared with 9,600,000 pounds in 1939 and a 5-year average of 6,376,000 pounds. This increased production will largely replace the seed formerly imported, but plans should be made to increase the present acreage planted to this crop.

Grasses

Bluegrass.

Kentucky bluegrass seed production should be maintained at about the present level. The supply just about balances the demand.

Redtop.

The production of redtop seed should be maintained at about the present level. There has been a rapid movement of seed from farms this season, and the price to the grower has been slightly lower than in previous years.

Timothy.

The present acreage of timothy is producing a supply of seed ample to meet the demands, both for domestic use and for export. Exports for the first 7 months of 1940 were a little over 6,200,000 pounds - slightly higher than in the same period of 1939 and very much larger than the 5 year average exports of 1,700,000 pounds.

Brome.

There is need for some increase in the production of brome grass seed. Although a considerable amount of seed is imported, most of it from Canada, the Canadian seed is not so well adapted to our growing conditions as is the native seed.

Orchard grass.

The production of orchard grass seed should be maintained at the present level or slightly increased.

The price of this seed, which is somewhat higher than average, together with the large movement from the growers early in the season, would indicate that there is a demand for all the seed produced, and, if the demand increases, there will be need for a larger production.

Sudan grass.

The Sudan grass supply is keeping up well with the demand, and production should be maintained, or possibly slightly increased, to take care of any possible increase in demand.

The 1940 production of 39,700,000 pounds of clean seed is about 40 percent less than the 1939 crop. However, a carry-over of approximately 20,000,000 pounds will make it possible to supply most of the demand.

Meadow fescue.

Production of meadow fescue seed should be maintained at about the present level. The 1940 supply seems to be ample to meet the demands. This is indicated by the fact that, although the crop moved from producers faster than usual, the price to growers is slightly less than average.

Red fescue.

There is need for increased production of red fescue seed, both because of the increased demand and the uncertainty of obtaining seed from foreign sources. Prices for this seed are high, and a lower price would further stimulate demand. The seed can be produced profitably in several States.

Dallis grass.

There is need for an increase in the production of Dallis grass, since domestic-grown seed is generally better adapted to our conditions. Dallis grass is well adapted for pastures in the Southern States, but high seed prices and poor quality of seed have restricted its use.

Crested wheat grass.

Crested wheat grass production should be maintained at about the present level, although there is a sufficient supply of this seed to meet present demands.

Crested wheat grass is taking the place of similar grasses in some areas in the Northern and Northwestern States, and any increase in demand would call for an increased production.

Ryegrass.

There is need for increased production of adapted strains of Italian ryegrass for use in regions where common ryegrass is now being grown. The supply of perennial ryegrass from the importations and domestic grown seed is keeping up with the demand. This production should be maintained. The production of common ryegrass has increased in several States and should take care of any possible needs.

Section 1

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